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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,731	11/09/2001	Atsushi Ito	1596-186	5870

6449 7590 12/16/2003

ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C.  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

VU, JIMMY T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2821

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/986,731

Applicant(s)

ITO ET AL.

Examiner

Jimmy T Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-15 and 19-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/194,118.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The references listed on the information disclosure statement submitted on 11/09/2001 have been considered.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 27 and 28 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 27 and 28, line 1 of each claim, change "A" to --The--. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

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4. Claim 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim (U.S. Patent number 6,268,838 B1).

Regarding claim 26, Kim discloses a controller (16) (Fig. 4, col. 4, lines 35-60) for a planar display panel (1) (Figs. 1-5) comprising a common electrode (Figs. 1-5) for driving all of display cells together, which constitute a display screen (Figs 1-5), or for partly driving any plural number of the display cells at a time, and individual electrodes (Figs. 1-5, col. 1, lines 31-67) for individually driving the display cells on the cell-by-cell basis, wherein said controller includes a driving circuit (4) for changing luminance in accordance with the number of pulses applied to each of said individual electrodes within a unit time, thereby effecting gradation display (Figs. 1-5, col. 1, lines 31-67, col. 4, lines 15-67).

Regarding claim 27, Kim discloses the controller for a planar display panel wherein said driving circuit effects the gradation display based on control of application of a relatively wide sustaining pulse and a relatively narrow extinguishing pulse which are used as the pulses to be applied to each of said individual electrodes within the unit time (Figs. 1-5, col. 1, lines 31-67, col. 2, lines 1-67, col. 4, lines 15-67).

*Allowable Subject Matter*

5. Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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None of the prior art teaches the controller for the planar display panel comprising the signal processing circuit for applying control signals to driving circuits of each of the display modules comprises the address information storage unit for storing specific address information, the input signal control unit for allowing input data, the through data output buffer for outputting the data, counting the common electrode driving pulse output from the display pulse generator, the look-up table for converting the number of pulses counted by the counter into the numerical value of gradation data, the counter electrode display data generator for outputting individual control data, the output buffer for outputting outputs of the display pulse generator and the display data generator to individual electrode driving circuits and common electrode driving circuits.

### *Conclusion*

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hamamoto disclosed related art.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy Vu whose telephone number is (703) 306-5451. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong, can be reached on (703) 308-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722 or (703) 308-7724.

Application/Control Number: 09/986,731

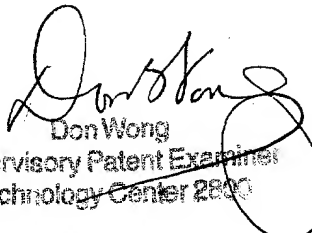
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Jimmy Vu

October 18, 2002

  
Don Wong  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800